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A photograph of a military vehicle equipped with a drone, parked in a desert-like environment.

Army exercises with drones in Aruba

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Biden 2024? Most Democrats say no thank you: AP-NORC poll

Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — A majority of Democrats now think one term is plenty for President Joe Biden, despite his insistence that he plans to seek reelection in 2024. That's according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research that shows just 37% of Democrats say they want him to seek a second term, down from 52% in the weeks before last year's midterm elections.

While Biden has trumpeted his legislative victories and ability to govern, the poll suggests relatively few U.S. adults give him high marks on either. Follow-up interviews with poll respondents suggest that many believe the 80-year-old's age is a liability, with people focused on his coughing, his gait, his gaffes and the possibility that the world's most stressful job would be better suited for someone younger.



President Joe Biden, right, at the top of a meeting with congressional leaders to discuss legislative priorities for the rest of the year, Nov. 29, 2022, in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

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The logo for TGI FRIDAYS, with "TGI" in white and "FRIDAYS" in red.

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Biden 2024? Most Democrats say no thank you: AP-NORC poll



President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris stand on stage at the Democratic National Committee winter meeting, Feb. 3, 2023, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

Continued from Front

"I, honestly, think that he would be too old," said Sarah Overman, 37, a Democrat who works in education in Raleigh, North Carolina. "We could use someone younger in the office." As the president gives his State of the Union address on Tuesday, he has a chance to confront fundamental doubts about his competence to govern. Biden has previously leaned heavily on his track record to say that he's more than up to the task. When asked if he can handle the office's responsibilities at his age, the president has often responded as if he's accepting a dare: "Watch me."

Democratic candidates performed better than expected in the 2022 midterm elections, a testament to Biden's message that he is defending democracy and elevating the middle class. Democrats expanded their control of the Senate by one seat and narrowly lost their House majority even though history indicated there would be a

Republican wave.

Overall, 41% approve of how Biden is handling his job as president, the poll shows, similar to ratings at the end of last year. A majority of Democrats still approve of the job Biden is doing as president, yet their appetite for a reelection campaign has slipped despite his electoral track record. Only 22% of U.S. adults overall say he should run again, down from 29% who said so before last year's midterm elections. The decline among Democrats saying Biden should run again for president appears concentrated among younger people. Among Democrats age 45 and over, 49% say Biden should run for reelection, nearly as many as the 58% who said that in October. But among those under age 45, 23% now say he should run for reelection, after 45% said that before the midterms.

Linda Lockwood, a Democrat and retiree from Kansas City, Kansas, said she is not that worried about Biden's age.

"He seems to be in pretty

good condition in my opinion and that's coming from a 76-year-old woman," Lockwood said. "You might be a little more careful going down the steps as you get older, but if your brain is still working, that's the important part."

Already the oldest president in U.S. history, Biden has been dogged by questions about his age as he would be 86 if he serves a full eight years as president. He often works long days, standing for hours, remembering the names of strangers he meets while traveling who want to share a story about their lives with him. Yet he's been a national political figure for a half-century, having first been elected to the Senate from Delaware in 1972, and the moments when he appears lost on stage or stumbles through speeches can garner more attention than his policies.

On CNN on Sunday, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, who sought the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020, acknowledged that "generational arguments can be

powerful."

"The most powerful argument of all is results," said Buttigieg, 41. "And you can't argue — at least, I would say you can't argue with a straight face that it isn't a good thing that we have had 12 million jobs created under this president."

Voters like Ross Truckey, 35, have been watching the president carefully. A lawyer in Michigan, Truckey did not vote for Biden or Republican Donald Trump in 2020. He feels as though Biden has been the latest in a string of "subpar" presidents.

"His age and possibly his mental acuity is not where I would want the leader of the country to be," Truckey said. "He, at times, appears to be an old man who is past his prime. Sometimes I feel a little bit of pity for the guy being pushed out in front of crowds."

Biden has repeatedly emphasized in speeches that it's essential for the public to know the totality of what his administration is doing. It's notched four big legislative victories with coronavi-

rus relief, the bipartisan infrastructure law, the CHIPS and Science Act, and tax and spending measures that help to address climate change and improve the IRS' ability to enforce the tax code and help taxpayers.

Yet just 13% have a lot of confidence in Biden's ability to accomplish major policy goals, a possible reflection of the fact that he must now work with a Republican majority in the House that wants to cut spending in return for lifting the government's legal borrowing authority.

The poll also shows only 23% of U.S. adults say they have "a great deal" of confidence in Biden to effectively manage the White House. That has ticked down from 28% a year ago and remains significantly lower than 44% two years ago, just as Biden took office.

Just 21% have a lot of confidence in Biden's ability to handle a crisis, down slightly from 26% last March.

On working with congressional Republicans and managing government spending, roughly half of U.S. adults say they have hardly any confidence in the president, and only around 1 in 10 say they have high confidence.

Republican voters are unwilling to give Biden the benefit of the doubt, hurting his ratings.

John Rodriguez, 76, backed Trump and assumes that Biden is merely doing the bidding of his aides. That creates a challenge for a president who promised to unite the country.

But the key obstacle for Biden might be voters such as Vikram Joglekar, 46, who works in the computer industry in Austin, Texas. He backed the president in 2020, only to summarize his feelings about Biden's time in office as "meh."

"It's not up for me to decide whether someone should run or not," Joglekar said. "I don't know who is going to be on the ballot, but I would hope it would be someone better from his party." □

Vaccine litigation lingers after lifting of military mandate

By KEVIN MCGILL

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Federal appeals court judges closely questioned a Biden administration attorney Monday on the consequences military personnel might face for refusing COVID-19 vaccinations, even though Biden's vaccine mandate for military personnel has been rescinded. Lawyers for a group of Navy SEALs and other Navy personnel who refuse to be vaccinated for religious reasons told a 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel that federal court injunctions against the mandate are still needed, in part because decisions on deployments and assignments can still be made based on vaccination status.

"Is there any assurance on the record, that there will be no deployment decisions based on vaccination?" Judge James Ho, one of three judges hearing the case asked Department of Justice lawyer Casen Ross. Ross said such questions were speculative and not at issue in the case before the court. Ho and Judge Kyle Duncan noted that the administration had only reluctantly ended the military mandate after December congressional action, but



Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin speaks during a briefing at the Pentagon in Washington, Nov. 16, 2022.

Ross assured the panel that there are no plans to bring back the requirement.

"Given the prevailing public health guidelines and the state of the virus, there is currently no intention to require universal vaccination of all service members," Ross said.

The Pentagon formally dropped the requirement in January following a December vote in Congress to end the mandate. However, vaccine opponents note that commanders

can still make decisions on how and whether to deploy unvaccinated troops, under a memo signed last month by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin.

Military leaders have long argued that to maintain unit health and troop readiness, troops have for decades been required to get as many as 17 vaccines, particularly those who are deploying overseas.

Attorneys for the unvaccinated Navy personnel argued in briefs to the 5th

Circuit that Austin's memo and other Defense Department actions show that the Navy still intends to treat unvaccinated personnel "like second-class citizens because of their religious beliefs."

Government lawyers argue the policy is in line with "well-established principles of judicial noninterference with core military decision making," in their briefs.

The Navy SEALs filed their lawsuit in November of 2021, describing what they

saw as a cumbersome 50-step process to obtain religious exemptions for the COVID-19 vaccine. Their lawyers have called a "sham" with applications being "categorically denied."

The Defense Department denied the process was onerous and said the Navy has a compelling interest in requiring vaccinations for personnel who often operate for long periods in "confined spaces that are ripe breeding grounds for respiratory illnesses."

On Monday, Heather Hacker, an attorney for the Navy personnel, said the situation could be seen as worse now for them now that the older mandate policy has been rescinded, because current policy does not provide for a sailor's religious objections to the vaccine to be considered when deployment or assignment decisions are made.

"Exactly, your honor," Hacker replied.

In January of last year, a federal judge in Texas barred the Navy from taking any action against the Navy plaintiffs for being unvaccinated. A 5th Circuit panel rejected the Biden administration's request to block the judge's order. □

Associated Press

Legal sizes for lobsters could change to protect population

By PATRICK WHITTLE

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — The rules about the minimum and maximum sizes of lobsters that can be trapped off New England could soon become stricter, potentially bringing big changes to one of the most valuable seafood industries in the country.

Fishers are required to measure lobsters from eyes to tail and must throw back the crustaceans if they're too large or too small. The rules, which can vary slightly based on fishing grounds, are intended to maintain a breeding population of the lobsters in key areas such as the Gulf of Maine and

Georges Bank. The regulatory Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is considering changing the standards by a fraction of an inch in some of the fishing grounds. The commission said it's considering the changes because of a worrisome lack of baby lobsters growing off New England.

The changes would arrive at a time when the lobster industry is experiencing record highs in both catch and value, and consumers are paying more for lobsters — already a premium product — than they were just a few years ago. The industry is also challenged by warming oceans and new fishing rules designed

to protect rare whales.

Recent surveys that show declining levels of young lobsters are a concern for the future of the fishery, said Caitlin Starks, senior fishery management plan coordinator for the commission. "Those numbers were declining," Starks said. "The levels of new lobsters recruiting into the fishery were particularly low, and there was concern that was going to foreshadow decline."

The commission is soliciting public comment on the proposal and plans to hold public hearings about it in March, Starks said. The changes would affect lobster fishers from Maine to the waters off southern

New England, and the hearings will be held in those places, Starks said. Changes could be implemented by fall 2024 if they are approved, Starks said. Lobster fishing groups such as the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association are following the developments, said Beth Casoni, executive director of the group.

The association doesn't have a stance yet because the exact specifications of the proposed changes are still to come, she said.

"We're waiting to see what the preferred management options are," Casoni said. The size of the U.S. lobster catch has increased

dramatically in the last 15 years. The catch in Maine, which is by far the largest producer of lobsters, is typically more than 100 million pounds (45 million kilograms) per year. Fishermen had never even eclipsed 80 million pounds (36 million kilograms) in a single year as recently as 2008. But the population of lobsters off southern New England has crashed. And scientists who perform surveys of baby lobsters from eastern Canada to Long Island, New York, have found a below average number of them settling on the ocean bottom in areas such as the Gulf of Maine since 2012, the commission said in a statement. □

Boy who shot teacher allegedly tried to choke another

By **DENISE LAVOIE and BEN FINLEY**

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) —

A 6-year-old Virginia boy who shot and wounded his first-grade teacher constantly cursed at staff and teachers, chased students around and tried to whip them with his belt and once choked another teacher "until she couldn't breathe," according to a legal notice filed by an attorney for the wounded teacher.

The incidents were described in a notice sent to the Newport News school district by Diane Toscano, an attorney for teacher Abby Zwerner, informing the district that Zwerner intends to sue. The notice of claim, which was obtained by The Associated Press through a public records request, outlines prior behavioral issues the boy had at Richneck Elementary School and troubling interactions he had with teach-



A Newport News police officer directs traffic at Richneck Elementary School in Newport News, Va., on Monday Jan. 30, 2023.

Associated Press

ers and students.

Two days before the shooting, the boy allegedly "slammed" Zwerner's cell-phone and broke it, according to the claim notice. He was given a one-day suspension, but when

he returned to Zwerner's class the following day, he pulled a 9mm handgun out of his pocket and shot her while she sat at a reading table, the notice says.

The notice elaborates on allegations Toscano out-

lined last month during a news conference.

The document says that several hours before the shooting, at least three teachers and staff members warned school administrators that they believed

the boy had brought a gun to school. The boy's backpack was searched, but no gun was found, and administrators did not remove the boy from class, lock down the school or call police.

The claim notice says that Zwerner went to former Assistant Principal Ebony Parker's office at about 11:15 a.m. that day "to advise her that the shooter seemed more 'off' than usual and was in a violent mood."

It also says the boy had threatened to beat up a kindergarten student and "angrily stared down" the school security officer in the lunch room.

The document describes several more warnings that Parker was allegedly given by staff about the boy having a gun.

"Assistant Principal Parker should have called police, instead she did not follow proper protocol and chose to do absolutely nothing," the claim notice states. □

Toxic chemicals to be released from derailed tanker cars

By **PATRICK ORSAGOS and JOHN SEEWER**

Associated Press

EAST PALESTINE, Ohio (AP) —

Authorities plan to release toxic chemicals into the air from five derailed tanker cars that were in danger of exploding Monday, telling residents near the Ohio-Pennsylvania state line to leave immediately or face the possibility of death. Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine ordered evacuations in the area of the derailment that has been smoldering since Friday night. Authorities believe most, if not all, residents in the danger zone have left but they were knocking on doors one more time before releasing the vinyl chloride inside the cars, he said.

"You need to leave, you just need to leave. This is a matter of life and death," DeWine said at press conference ahead of the controlled release planned

for 3:30 p.m. EST. Scott Deutsch of Norfolk Southern Railway said doing this during the daytime will allow the fumes to disperse more quickly and prevent the rail cars from exploding and sending shrapnel and other debris from flying through the neighborhood. "We can't control where that goes," said Deutsch, who estimated the release would take from one to three hours. The process in-

volves using a small charge to blow a hole in the cars, allowing the material to go into a trench and burning it off before it's released in the air, he said. The site is very close to the state line, and the evacuation area extends into a sparsely populated area of Pennsylvania. About half of the 4,800 residents in East Palestine had been warned to leave over the weekend before officials decided on Mon-

day to use the controlled release.

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro said the evacuation zone includes about 20 Pennsylvania residents, but as of Sunday night, half had remained in their homes. Pennsylvania State Police were going to door-to-door to assist those residents and ensure that they leave. "This is very serious," he said. "I want you to know that if I were there right now, if the First Lady and our children were there right now, we would evacuate. We would leave this area. It is potentially too dangerous." Forced evacuations began Sunday night in the village of East Palestine after authorities became alarmed that the rail cars could explode after a "drastic temperature change" was observed in a rail car. Residents were packing overnight bags, loading their pets into cars and searching for hotel rooms Monday morning.

Police in the village moved out of their communication center as the threat of an explosion increased.

Police cars, snow plows and military vehicles from the Ohio National Guard blocked streets leading into the area. About 50 cars, including 10 carrying hazardous materials, derailed in a fiery crash Friday night, according to rail operator Norfolk Southern and the National Transportation Safety Board. No injuries to crew, residents or first responders were reported. Five were transporting vinyl chloride, which is used to make the polyvinyl chloride hard plastic resin in plastic products and is associated with increased risk of liver cancer and other cancers, according to the federal government's National Cancer Institute. Federal investigators say the cause of the derailment was a mechanical issue with a rail car axle. □



This photo taken with a drone shows portions of a Norfolk and Southern freight train that derailed Friday night in East Palestine, Ohio are still on fire at mid-day Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023.

Associated Press

Israeli troops kill 5 Palestinian gunmen in West Bank raid

By **IMAD ISSEID** and
TIA GOLDENBERG

Associated Press

AQABAT JABR, West Bank (AP) — Israeli forces killed five Palestinian gunmen linked to the Islamic militant Hamas group in a raid on refugee camp in the occupied West Bank on Monday, the latest bloodshed in the region that will likely further exacerbate tensions.

The Palestinian president's office called the violence a crime, urging the United States to pressure Israel to hold back on its incursions. The military said the raid was meant to apprehend a militant cell that staged a botched shooting attack on a restaurant in a Jewish settlement in the West Bank.

The violence extends one of the deadliest periods in years in the West Bank and comes during the first weeks of Israel's new government, its most right-wing ever, which has promised to take a tough stance against the Palestinians. The Israeli military said it was operating in the Aqabat Jabr refugee camp to apprehend the suspects behind a failed shooting attack last month at a West Bank restaurant, where attackers allegedly were thwarted by a weapon malfunction. The attackers then fled the scene, the military said, adding that they were members of Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip and has elements in the West Bank as well.

The military said it was searching Monday for the militant cell behind the shooting that it said had sealed itself inside a home in the refugee camp. During the search, troops encountered gunmen and a gun battle erupted. The military said several of the gunmen who were killed were involved in the attempted attack on the restaurant. "The new Israeli government is continuing its series of crimes against our Palestinian people," a statement from Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' office said. Jihad Abu al-Assal, the governor of Jericho and the Jordan Valley, said the military was holding on to the gunmen's bodies. The Palestinian Health Ministry later confirmed that five Palestinians had been killed. Speaking at an event at the site of a recent deadly Palestinian shooting attack, Netanyahu confirmed earlier reports by Israeli security officials that five gunmen were killed. Hamas said all five of those killed were members of its armed wing. Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem said the violence would be met with a response. "Our people and their resistance will not delay in responding to this crime," he said.



Palestinian protesters block the main road with burning tires in the West Bank city of Jericho, Monday, Feb. 6, 2023.

Associated Press

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The raid comes days after an earlier incursion in the Aqabat Jabr camp, which is near the Palestinian city of Jericho, a desert oasis in an area of the West Bank that rarely sees such unrest, where troops were also searching for the suspects. □

Pakistan blocks Wikipedia, says it hurt Muslim sentiments

By **MUNIR AHMED**

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan's media regulator said Monday it blocked Wikipedia services in the country for hurting Muslim sentiment by not removing purportedly blasphemous content from the site. Critics denounced Islamabad's action, saying it was a blow to digital rights. Under Pakistan's controversial blasphemy laws, anyone found guilty of insulting Islam or its figures can be sentenced to death, although the country has yet to carry out capital punishment for blasphemy. But even allegations of the offense are often enough to provoke mob violence and even deadly attacks. International and domestic rights groups say that accusations of blasphemy have often been used to intimi-

date religious minorities and settle personal scores. The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority says it blocked Wikipedia because a 48-hour deadline to remove the content was ignored, according to a spokesperson. "Such things hurt the sentiments of Muslims," said Malahat Obaid, from the regulator. She said Pakistani authorities were in talks with Wikipedia officials and the ban could be lifted if the platform completely removes anti-Islam content. Hours later, Pakistan's Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said that premier Shahbaz Sharif had ordered the immediate restoration of Wikipedia, a move welcomed by Pakistanis. The Wikimedia Foundation on Saturday confirmed the ban, saying: "We hope that the Pakistan government

joins us in a commitment to knowledge as a human right and restores access to @Wikipedia and Wikimedia projects promptly, so that the people of Pakistan can continue to receive and share knowledge with the world." Mohsin Raza Khan, a Pakistani social media expert, said it is easy to update or replace Wikipedia material deemed sacrilegious or offensive for Muslims so blocking the site is not the answer. "Pakistan's media regulator and other authorities should try to find some viable technical solution to such problems as blasphemous content is available everywhere," he said. "It is equal to a drop in the ocean of knowledge." The Lahore-based Digital Rights Foundation earlier called the Wikipedia ban an affront to Pakistanis' right to access informa-

tion and a mockery of the country's commitment to uphold its human rights obligations. In the past, Pakistan briefly banned TikTok twice for allegedly uploading "immoral, obscene and vulgar" content. But the ban was later lifted after TikTok assured Pakistan it would remove immoral content and also block users who upload "unlawful content." The app was downloaded millions of times in Pakistan when the ban was imposed in 2020 and 2021. □

A computer screen displays a notice blocking the Wikipedia website through an online news site in Islamabad, Pakistan, Monday, Feb. 6, 2023.



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Associated Press

Subversion trial for Hong Kong political activists opens

By KANIS LEUNG
Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Some of Hong Kong's best-known pro-democracy activists went on trial Monday in the biggest prosecution yet under a law imposed by China's ruling Communist Party to crush dissent. The 18 defendants face up to life in prison if convicted under the national security law critics say is eroding the autonomy promised when Hong Kong returned to China in 1997, and its status as a global business center. They were among 47 pro-democracy figures who were arrested in 2021 under the legislation that was imposed following protests in 2019. They were charged in connection with an informal 2020 primary election. The pro-democracy movement has largely dried up after activists were jailed or went into exile. Growing numbers of young professionals have responded to the erosion of Hong Kong's Western-style civil liberties by leaving for Britain, the United States and other countries. The United States imposed sanctions on officials it said were to blame for the abuses.



Policemen wearing face masks stand guard outside the West Kowloon Magistrates' Courts ahead of the national security trial for the pro-democracy activists in Hong Kong, Monday Feb. 6, 2023. Associated Press

The primary in 2020 aimed at picking pro-democracy candidates who could win control of the territory's Legislative Council. Prosecutors accuse them of trying to paralyze Hong Kong's government and topple the city's leader by securing a majority to veto budgets. "The purpose of the conspiracy is to subvert the state power," the prosecu-

tor said in his opening statement. The prosecution involves many of the city's most prominent activists, including legal scholar Benny Tai, former student leader Joshua Wong and opposition party leaders Wu Chi-wai and Alvin Yeung. Tai and four others were the election organizers and had indispensable involvement, the prosecutor said.

In previous proceedings, the 18 activists had indicated they intended to plead not guilty. But two of them former district councilor Ng Kin-wai and businessman Mike Lam later changed their minds, joining the other 29 activists, including Tai, Wong, Yeung and Wu, who plan to admit the charges. While most of the 47 activists who were charged with conspiracy to com-

mit subversion have been detained without bail for nearly two years, former lawmakers Raymond Chan and Helena Wong, who appeared in court on Monday, were among the minority who were granted bail based on strict conditions.

Ahead of the opening statements, the pair, along-side 14 other activists, pleaded not guilty in front of the judges, who were approved by the city's leader to oversee the case. "There is no crime for me to plead guilty," former lawmaker Leung Kwok-hung said. Ng and Lam pleaded guilty.

Those who intend to plead guilty will receive their sentencing after the trial. Some of them, including Joshua Wong and former district councilor Lester Shum, were in the courtroom to observe the trial.

The court also heard that four of the 47 activists would give evidence as prosecution witnesses. Earlier in the morning, more than 200 people, including relatives and friends of the defendants, lined up outside the court building as local police stepped up security in the area. □

Haiti appoints council amid push to hold general elections

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haiti's prime minister on Monday formally ap-

pointed a transition council charged with ensuring that long-awaited gen-

eral elections are held in a country with no democratically elected institutions. While many doubt the creation of the council will help the government hold elections this year as envisioned, Prime Minister Ariel Henry said it was a significant step toward that goal. "It is the beginning of the end of the dysfunction of our democratic institutions," he said. Haiti has failed to hold elections since the July 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse. Henry assumed power shortly after Moïse's death, and promised that his administration would do so. In early January, the terms of the remaining 10 senators expired, leav-

ing no elected officials in place for a country of more than 11 million people. Henry called on all Haitians to unite and fight for change as the country continues to spiral, with poverty and hunger deepening and violence spiking. The prime minister also thanked the council's three members for agreeing to join the government in the "noble and thankless task of serving our country in these difficult times." The council's three members are Calixte Fleuridor with Haiti's Protestant Federation, who will represent civil society; Mirlande Manigat, a law professor and former first lady and presidential candidate who

will represent political parties; and Laurent Saint-Cyr, president of the Haitian Chamber of Commerce, who will represent the private sector.

The council also will be responsible for working with government officials to reform Haiti's constitution, implement economic reforms and reduce violence as gangs continue to grow more powerful since the presidential assassination, leading to a rise in killings, kidnappings and rapes.

The High Transition Council, as it's known, also will choose the members of a provisional electoral council that needs to be in place before election planning begins. □



Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry leaves at the end of a ceremony marking the anniversary of the Battle of Vertieres, the last major battle of Haitian independence from France at the National Pantheon Museum, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Nov. 18, 2022.

Associated Press

FADA Aruba is active during the carnaval season

(Oranjestad)—The carnaval season is one of many activities and celebrations that also invite alcohol consumption. The Anti-drug Foundation of Aruba (FADA) is going to be active during the carnaval season with their campaign called 'Amigo DIDI' (DD Friends) to raise awareness on alcohol consumption to the public.

In a press conference for local news outlets, Miosotis Tromp, social worker for FADA, indicated that the carnaval season is where they are especially active, seeing as the busiest days are yet to come.

She explained that the organization has already started with their plan, and they will be visiting different locations to inform and raise awareness on the importance of the campaign 'Amigo DIDI'.



Tromp remarked that even though Amigo DIDI is seen as a campaign specifically directed towards adults, they have also been visiting schools in the last few weeks, giving presentations about alcohol consumption. This is because they

have noticed that drinking is also becoming popular among the youths.

"We often forget during the festivities that kids may not be used to seeing people drink or experience drunk people daily. It's very important to explain that dur-

ing parades, these things happen and in the case that it does, we must make sure to be OK and that children are beside their parents," she underlined.

She highlighted that it is very important to them to try to remind parents that

they must set an example for their children to have the chance to understand that alcohol is not an important part of life.

"On our part we're also busy with reminding children to remind their parents not to drink and drive. In the case that they do have to drive, it is important to have an Amigo DIDI. It should be highlighted that the Amigo DIDI is the one driving, and not the passenger," she remarked.

FADA Aruba will be present in every grand parade with their banners to keep reminding the public the message behind their campaign. "Alcohol is something that doesn't have to be a part of carnaval, but if you do consume alcohol, please do so moderately," she urged. □

Transfer of command to the carnaval monarchs of Aruba

(Oranjestad)—Sunday morning in front of the government office, the official transfer of command was held for the princes and panchos, who will all lead Aruba's 69th annual carnaval for the next two weeks. Prime Minister, Evelyn Wever-Croes, officially handed over the key to the carnaval monarchs of Aruba.

During this event, the prince and pancho of every carnaval category read their official decree with the changes they want to see from the Prime Minister for the period of the carnaval festivities.

"We are gathered together today for the transfer of command, so that for the next two weeks, the governance of this country during the carnaval festivities will no longer be in the hands of the 8 ministers, but in the hands of the 6 princes and panchos," Wever-Croes

declared.

The Prime Minister continued by saying that Aruba was not able to celebrate in the last two years, the biggest cultural manifestation on the island. With much enthusiasm, the Aruban public is prepared to finally walk the streets again to celebrate the majestic creativity that is only possible in Aruba.

"Our government is always here to listen to everyone, and with a lot of attention, I listened to the decrees of the princes and panchos this morning. Some of their wishes are a challenge and we hope to make all the changes desired in the blink of an eye, but we will keep every single one of these points in consideration," she remarked.

The Prime Minister handed over the kid prince and pancho a sword, so they can protect the carnaval festivities for the children. The youth prince and pancho received a machete as a symbol of defense for the youths during carnaval. The adult prins and pancho received the traditional key, which symbolizes the support and confidence to open and lead the 69th annual carnaval. Additionally, the last pair also received a spare key, in case the pair has too much fun and end up losing the key. □



Army exercises with drones in Aruba

From February 7, 60 soldiers from the Royal Netherlands Army will have exercises in Aruba. The soldiers are working at the 107 Aerial Systems Battery in 't Harde, in the Netherlands. They are specialized in the deployment of different types of drones. To make the exercise possible, the military also has its own vehicles and other military equipment.

The climate in Aruba offers the military good opportunities to make a lot of flight hours with the drones, and therewith get maximum efficiency out of the exercise. In the Netherlands the possibilities during winter time are more limited. In addition, this exercise offers the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues from the Marine Squadron Carib and the Coastguard Dutch Caribbean Region, which are both also active in Aruba.

The soldiers stay at the Marine barracks at Savaneta and are active on several locations all around the island. From February 15 the first flights will take place and the

exercise will last till March 24.

107 Aerial Systems Battery (107 ASBt)

107 ASBt is an operational intelligence unit and is specialized in the deployment of unmanned aerial system (UAS), better known as drones. With this UAS the unit collects intelligence that other units can use in their operational deployment. This UAS-detachment can also be deployed for civilian tasks. During the exercise in Aruba the drones will only be deployed for exercise purposes. The images made by the drones during the exercise are not saved.

Collaboration with Luxemburg and Belgium

107 ASBt collaborates with the Luxembourg and Belgian armed forces. Also during this exercise a number of colleagues from Luxembourg and Belgium will be going under guidance from 107 ASBt instructors, to gain experience flying the Dutch drones. The exercise is separate from the deployment of the MQ-9 Reaper. □



Experience Aruban culture with this exciting theme night featuring a Carnival show, mixology bar, local artists and more. You can sample Aruban cuisine, including delicious BBQ options with a tropical twist. A local brass band will be performing, and you can pose with elaborately dressed Carnival dancers for a memorable photo op as well, so don't miss it.

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Aruba to me

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Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any oth-

er materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Carol

and John Colella from Peabody, Massachusetts.

They wrote to us saying: "We have been visiting Aruba since 2001, 22 years and 40 visits, it is truly our second home and our Aruban family at the Divi All Inclusive is the best. We love the island, appreciate its beauty but it's the people that make you want to return. Our Aruban family is welcoming and kind.

We have met and made wonderful friends over the years."



Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

Aruba to me

For today we received a lovely message from Glenn and JoAnn Murphy from Basking Ridge, New Jersey.

They wrote to us saying: "Aruba is to me... the Pearl of God's Creation. Its white talcum powder beaches and its crystal clear waters reveal and unveil God's artistry as they shout of God's love of beauty. This unspoiled hidden gem



invites us to imagine the perfection of a future heaven and to incline our ears to the echoes of a past unblemished garden (Eden).

We first discovered Aruba's enchanting and jaw dropping beauty just after the turn of the century. We later returned for our 25th wedding anniversary and have been back every year since. Now as we celebrate our 44th anniversary we still find ourselves giggling with delight as we frolic in her waters and stroll her pristine beaches. It is here on this paradise-like island that we set aside the stress of modern life. It is here in this magical place that we renew and refresh our enduring love for each other. It is here in this indescribably delicious setting that we connect with the God who imagined it all and spoke it into existence.

Thank you God for Aruba, this gift of your boundless and unfathomable love for us all."

Thank you for sending us this beautiful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

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Travellers' Choice 2020

Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas



SAN NICOLAS— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly visible in San Nicolas - more

than anywhere else on the island.

Flow of history

if you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here you will find three amazing museums, The Museum of Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another. The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower



in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history.

Nicolaas Store built in 1940 and renovated in 2014 is the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaus of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barber-shop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of education or enjoyment. Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how are Carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of

an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts of various art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair, San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals are replacing broken down buildings with colorful art pieces that keep brightening up SunriseCity.

Must See, Do, Buy & Eat

A little bit of everything can be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer. □



Jerwin Giel 8 years after cancer diagnosis: “I want to be an inspiration for others”

(Oranjestad)—The world celebrated World Cancer Day this past Saturday. This is a day to raise awareness and prevention for a disease that many lose their lives to and that others overcome and keep fighting.

Jerwin Giel is one a young man who around 8 years ago, had to confront the hardest challenge of his life when he was diagnosed with cancer. In an interview with Bon Dia Aruba, he shared his story and provided in sight on his life after his fight with testicular cancer at a young age.

Giel said that everything started with a simple back pain. He was in and out of the doctor's office and received many medications for this pain, but nothing seemed to work.

After that, he realized that his sperm production became scarce, and during one of his usual work outs, he felt a pain he had never felt before. In that same week, Giel said that he went to the doctor and explained his entire dilemma. “When the doctor assessed me, his eyes widened after I told him I had been experiencing back pain for several months now,” he said. He continued by saying that his general practitioner sent him to Dr. Moreta and asked him to do some blood work and make a CT scan of his back. However, Giel, young and rebellious, did not follow through with all his orders.

“I still remember the date, 13 or 16 of December I was in class and Dr. Moreta called to ask where I was. He told me to go to the hospital and take some pictures and bring them to him. That's when I knew that something was off,” he remarked.

After taking his pictures, he went by the doctor's office and that is where he received the news that he had stage 3-4 testicular



cancer. “I told him to tell my family, because I'm a joker, and they wouldn't believe me if I told them,” He indicated.

Giel explained that at the same time, the doctor told him to get ready to go stay in the hospital, as they would be operating the next day to remove the tumor. After his operation, Giel spent Christmas with his family at home and had to undergo chemotherapy treatment the next week. Every chemo cycle took 21 days, and Giel had to undergo 4 in total. He indicated that for 5 days straight, he had chemo. During those 5 days, he had to stay in the hospital

and receive three bags of chemo. Fridays were always the hardest.

“I always look for the good in bad situations, and I found out that on chemo day they give you whatever you want to eat, so that became something I looked forward to. It was a way to make it bearable,” he recalled.

He shared that his body did not react badly to the first two rounds of chemo. He did however start to feel sick during the third cycle. He noticed his hair falling out and his lack of energy. “The chemo was so strong that I would taste it in my mouth and smell it whenever

I went to the bathroom. It kills the bad cells, but also the good ones,” He added. In terms of the physical effects of the chemo, he said that he felt them right away. From his first day of chemo, he noticed that his ears started ringing, like a firework went off right next to you. To this day, he still experiences this ringing.

“I see it as selective hearing now. Whenever I don't want to listen to someone, I just pretend that I can't hear them. Again, trying to see the good in all this,” Giel said.

He remembers the first time his hair starting to fall off. He recalls that he was in class,

and he decided the same day to shave it off. Giel told the newspaper about one of his fond memories during the new year, where they let him light a firework outside the hospital parking lot. “During the process, I would see the positive and I stayed a happy person on the outside, but inside I was actually becoming miserable,” he remarked.

After he finished chemo, Giel shared that he thought he was done, but two days later he was informed that he had to go to The Netherlands to operate. They did not tell him what type of operation it was in Aruba, but he found out when he arrived in The Netherlands. “They told me that they would have to open me up to remove all of my lymph nodes, because they had become a teratoma. That meant that they found teeth, hair, nails etc.,” he stated.

Giel remarked that right before he entered the operation room, he cried for the first time. “I cried a lot, and I just couldn't stop, no matter how hard I tried. The nurses asked me to calm down, but I was hysterical; I just had to let everything out.”

Giel highlighted that even though he told his journey from his perspective, with a strong and positive mindset, he remarks that he could not have gone through it all without his supportive system. “I will forever be grateful for God and their help. I want to be an inspiration for others. With a strong mindset, you can face any obstacle that comes your way.” □

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Phone button
- 7 Track event
- 11 Meeting slate
- 12 Mideast sultanate
- 13 Flying copycat
- 15 Foster of film
- 16 Conks out
- 18 St. Louis sight
- 21 Small change
- 22 Patriotic song
- 24 Switch setting
- 25 Drill part
- 26 Mine yield
- 27 Beyond what's acceptable
- 29 Expand
- 30 Screws up
- 31 Mires
- 32 Region of northern India
- 34 Wee hoverer
- 40 "Got it"
- 41 Aviator Earhart
- 42 Household critters
- 43 Milk buy

DOWN

- 1 Flock father
- 2 Sense of self
- 3 Winter mo.
- 4 Printer type
- 5 "Bye!" in Baja
- 6 Touch down
- 7 Poet Frost
- 8 French friend
- 9 Sedan or SUV
- 10 Purpose
- 14 Ferber novel
- 16 "Robinson Crusoe" writer
- 17 Due to get
- 19 Guitarist's concern
- 20 Long sand-wiches
- 21 Barracks bed
- 22 Melody
- 23 Kitten cry
- 25 Deep singers
- 28 Picture holders
- 29 TV's Bryant
- 31 Molten rock
- 33 Un-expected problem
- 34 Stylish
- 35 Try out
- 36 Got together
- 37 Unwell
- 38 Carnival city
- 39 Dapper fellow

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Yesterday's answer

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13						14			
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	16	17				18		19	20
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	30					31			
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34	35	36					37	38	39
40					41				
42					43				

2-7

AXYDIBAA XR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-7

CRYPTOQUOTE

WY ZXJ SWGD RX PD K AJMBVDB.
W EKMR RX SWGD RX PD K
AJMBVDB FWMJH XMD BKZ
HX W MDGDV AKGD RX
SWGD EWRAXJR ZXJ. — K.K.
FWSMD

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IT IS LOVE ... THAT IS THE TRUE EXPLANATION OF THIS WORLD. WHATEVER MAY BE THE EXPLANATION OF THE NEXT OSCAR WILDE



This photo provided by Lone Star Credit Union shows Becky Reed. Reed, CEO of Lone Star Credit Union in Dallas, said her credit union put a stake in crypto amid the volatility with a bigger picture in mind.

Associated Press

Insider Q&A: Lone Star Credit Union CEO on cryptocurrencies

By ALEXANDRA OLSON
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Credit unions have been dipping their toes into cryptocurrency over the past year. But at the height of the crypto craze in late 2021, many credit unions saw their members buying cryptocurrency in significant numbers. In December 2021, the National Credit Union Administration, the federal agency that regulates credit unions, released guidance clarifying that federally insured credit unions can partner with third-party providers to allow their members to buy, sell and hold cryptocurrencies. Lone Star Credit Union, a small Dallas credit union with \$163 million in assets, refers members interested in buying cryptocurrency to BankSocial, a non-custodial wallet provider, which gives buyers control over access to their assets. In an interview with The Associated Press, Lone Star Credit Union CEO Becky Reed discusses the partnership and why she is optimistic about crypto's future.

What was behind Lone Star's decision to enter the crypto market?

A: It was in late 2021 and early 2022 that we noticed that our members were buying crypto. At that point in time, we really thought that our members weren't. If you asked our executive team and our board they would say, 'Well, our members don't care about cryptocurrencies.' Well, the data showed otherwise. □

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ABC's 'Not Dead Yet' is a comedy with a weekly ghost story

By **MARK KENNEDY**

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — While TV writers Casey Johnson and David Windsor were winding down the emotional roller coaster series "This Is Us," they had another project waiting to soar — one with ghosts.

Their new "Not Dead Yet," about a newspaper obituary writer haunted by the subjects she is writing about, lands on ABC this week, less than a year after viewers bid goodbye to "This Is Us" characters Randall, Kate and Kevin.

"With the end of that show, it was a lot about death. And here we were at the same time giving birth to this other baby," said Windsor. "It was sort of a nice cycle of life."

In "Not Dead Yet," airing Wednesday, Gina Rodriguez plays Nell, a newly single reporter who returns to her California newspaper 10 years after she quit to follow a love interest to London. Things have changed for everyone.

She lands on the obituary desk "Everyone has a story. It's your job to find it," she is told and in the pilot is soon visited by the ghost of her first story. It does not go well.

"No, uh-uh, I do not see dead people," she tells the



This image released by ABC shows Gina Rodriguez in a scene from "Not Dead Yet."

Associated Press

spirit. "This has just got to be the chili cheese fries and the cake and the five cocktails and maybe the half gummy I ate." To which the ghost deadpans: "Go easy there, Keith Richards."

The use of a new ghost each week allows Nell to explore other lives and experiences, and they, in turn, help advise a women who admits she's a mess, someone who drinks a little too much and wears bathing suit bottoms when she runs out of clean underwear.

"There's two things about the people who've passed

away," says Johnson. "What can they bring up in Nell's life that she can explore and what can she learn from this person's life that's specific to them. So it's just kind of this rich territory."

Some of the ghosts Nell meets include a jingle writer who teaches Nell about one-hit wonders, a hard-charging success coach who reveals not all advice is useful and a social media influencer who brings up hurt memories of high school. It airs while another spirit-filled comedy CBS'

"Ghosts" has begun its second season.

"Not Dead Yet" co-stars Hannah Simone from "New Girl" as Nell's best friend, "Superstore" alumna Lauren Ash as her chilly boss, "Cleopatra Jones" star Angela Gibbs as a new friend and "As We See It" star Rick Glassman as her roommate.

Guest star ghosts over the first series include Martin Mull, Ed Begley Jr., Mo Collins, Deborah S. Craig, Telma Hopkins, Don Lake, Rhea Perlman, Paula Pell, Tony Plana and Julia Swee-

ney.

Johnson and Windsor, who created and executive produced "The Real O'Neals," were coming off a three-year run as co-executive producers of "This Is Us" and based their new series on a book by Alexandra Potter. They managed to get the series filmed before Rodriguez gave birth. Both writers had mourned the recent passing of a parent and found themselves missing their loved ones and wishing they still had their guidance.

"It was almost wish fulfillment thinking like, 'Wow, what would happen if we could talk to them? What would happen if we could seek them out and and get their advice?'" said Windsor.

Johnson and Windsor had primarily done comedies before "This Is Us" but they always tried to give their shows a dramatic, emotional heart. "Not Dead Yet" has elements of both.

"We were wondering if there was a way to kind of meld the two worlds," said Johnson. "Can we do a comedy that has hard jokes and is a lot of fun, but then also goes for these really emotional, real moments? To us as writers, that was a really exciting experiment and we were really thrilled

that ABC was on board."

"Not Dead Yet" is also a workplace show, one that makes fun of co-workers who bring large salads to work and the cliques that form, like the adult jocks and the forever nerds.

Johnson notes that leading a TV show mirrors a lot of office culture and offers plenty to mine: "We're in a writers' room with bad fluorescent lights and dried up Sharpies and lunches out of plastic containers," she said, laughing.

They said that when writing episodes there were times when the notion of the ghost came first and other times the idea for Nell to explore something in her life dictated the arrival of a certain ghost. □

Julie Andrews teams with daughter on new picture book



This cover image released by Abrams shows "The Enchanted Symphony" by Julie Andrews and Emma Walton Hamilton.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The latest picture book collaboration between Julie Andrews and daughter Emma Walton Hamilton was inspired by an unusual musical performance in Spain.

Abrams Children's Books announced Monday that "The Enchanted Symphony" will be published Sept. 12. Andrews and Walton Hamilton thought of the book during the first year of the pandemic, when they learned of "Concert for the Biocene," in which a string

quartet played in front of thousands of plants, one for each seat at Barcelona's Gran Teatre del Liceu. "The Enchanted Symphony" is a "hopeful fairy tale," according to Abrams. It's set in a village "beset by a mysterious fog," but revived by a "boy's simple melody." "While the fog in our book evokes our pandemic experience, it also symbolizes something larger: the creeping and countless distractions that prevent us from appreciating what truly matters

most in life," Andrews and Walton Hamilton said in a statement.

"For us, it's family, community, nature, and the arts that provide true beauty and meaning," they said. Andrews and her daughter have worked together on numerous other books, including the "The Very Fairy Princess" series and "The First Notes: The Story of Do, Re, Mi," based on the famous song from "The Sound of Music." They also plan a followup to "The Enchanted Symphony." □

Sloppy race clouds NASCAR's return to L.A. Coliseum

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Bubba Wallace said his back and neck hurt following the bumping and banging of NASCAR's first event of the new year, an exhibition that Kyle Larson called "very violent for the majority of the race."

Austin Dillon was shocked at the aggressiveness shown Sunday night at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, especially early in the race, when he found his head going "bang, bang, back and forth, every corner" in a sloppy, caution-filled game of bumper cars. "There was nothing but just hammer each other and hope to come out the other side," said Dillon, who added that he told new teammate Kyle Busch that the steering wheel was knocked out of his hands on a particularly hard hit to the back of his Chevrolet. "You're taking some pretty good blows out there and trying to stay calm."

NASCAR brought its pre-season Busch Light Clash back to the Coliseum for a second consecutive year to race on a temporary quarter-mile track inside the iconic venue. The show was a smashing success a year ago — NASCAR used heat races, last-chance qualifiers, a prerace concert and a halftime show — to dazzle a new audience



NASCAR Cup Series driver Martin Truex Jr. life his trophy after winning the Busch Light Clash NASCAR exhibition auto race at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Sunday, Feb. 5, 2023, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

that included a packed USC student section.

It was going to be impossible to duplicate the success this year — even with a Wiz Khalifa halftime set — but it wasn't supposed to be so messy. The inaugural event had just five cautions; Sunday night was marred by 25 cautions and a long stretch after the seven-minute Wiz Khalifa set in which the drivers struggled to complete two consecutive laps under green.

The racing was so amateur that it probably killed any chance of turning a third trip to the Coliseum into a points-awarding race,

which seemed plausible just a day earlier. Auto Club Speedway in nearby Fontana is set to be renovated following its Cup race later this month, and its track president said the facility wouldn't be ready to host racing in 2024.

The absence of Auto Club next year puts pressure on NASCAR to remain in the Southern California market, and "a race that counts" at the Coliseum could have filled the void. But the drivers blasted that idea.

Martin Truex Jr., who went winless last season and nearly retired, won Sunday night and gave a flat "No,"

when asked if the race should count in the future. The Clash was run at Daytona International Speedway from its 1979 inception until last year, when NASCAR moved it to the Coliseum because, frankly, a special race wasn't so special anymore at Daytona.

The Coliseum idea was fresh and new, and it energized the industry for the start of an important season in which NASCAR launched a new car. The Clash at the Coliseum is what it is, Truex said, and if it's messy and sloppy, so be it.

"Why would you want to screw it up and make it a

points race? It's like a one-off deal," he said, noting that at Daytona the ever-changing eligibility rules made a boring race "all weird."

"Now this is really cool. It's got its own identity, fun race, all the way out here in a cool venue that's got a lot of history," Truex said of the Coliseum. "I think it's kind of got a good vibe to it now. Let's not maybe screw that up."

But a secondary theme emerged at the Coliseum, as most drivers believed that an offseason fix NASCAR made to the rear bumper of its Next Gen car was not such a fix after all. The rear of the new car was designed to withstand hard hits, but the durability and rigidity of the rear clip left the driver absorbing far more energy than normal in routine crashes.

It led to at least two concussions, and Kurt Busch was forced to retire because of a July crash in qualifying. He said last week that he was in nine crashes in 2022 in which the force of impact alarmed Busch and he's still not 100% healthy.

Kyle Busch said Wallace's rear bumper was visibly damaged, "so he might have been one of the ones that got hit the hardest." He also agreed with Larson and Dillon, who said the violence inside the car "still doesn't feel good." □

Brady will not move into Fox announcing booth until 2024

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tom Brady will not go immediately from the playing field to the broadcast booth. Brady told Colin Cowherd during Monday's episode of "The Herd" on FS1 and Fox Sports Radio that he will not start his broadcasting career with Fox until the 2024 season.

The seven-time Super Bowl champion — who retired last week after a 23-year career with the New England Patriots and Tampa Bay Buccaneers — signed

a 10-year deal with Fox last May to become the network's top analyst when he decided to quit playing for good.

Brady said that he didn't want to immediately rush into announcing and that he wanted to catch up on some other parts of his life.

"I think one thing about my career whether it was when I was drafted by the Patriots or signing agreements with the Bucs, I wanted to be fully committed and I never wanted to let

people down," Brady said. "I want to be great at what I do, and that always takes some time and strategizing and learning and growing and evolving. I have so many people to rely on that could support me in that growth too."

Brady is expected to eventually join Kevin Burkhardt on Fox's top team. Burkhardt and Greg Olsen will call their first Super Bowl on Sunday when the Kansas City Chiefs face the Philadelphia Eagles.



NFL quarterback Tom Brady, a cast member and producer of "80 for Brady," looks down the carpet at the premiere of the film, Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023, at the Regency Village Theatre in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Fox, which is carrying its 10th Super Bowl on Sunday, also has Super Bowl 59 in New Orleans after the 2024

season. Brady is still not expected to be a part of Fox's pregame coverage on Sunday. □

Justin Rose wins at Pebble Beach to end 4-year drought

By **DOUG FERGUSON**

AP Golf Writer

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP)

— Justin Rose had a different set of goals at the start of the year.

His back was starting to become bothersome. His world ranking sank to its lowest point in 13 years. And he had reason to wonder if he would spend the first full week in April somewhere other than Augusta National.

All that changed Monday morning when Rose capped off a long week at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am with three quick birdies and four steady pars that gave him a three-shot victory, his first in four years. Along with the crystal trophy — his 11th on the PGA Tour, 23rd worldwide — and the \$1.62 million prize comes an invitation to the Masters. Rose has been eligible for every major dating to St. Andrews in 2010, a streak he did not want to end. “Augusta’s definitely been a big part of being on my mind,” Rose said after closing with a 6-under 66 in cool but pristine conditions at Pebble Beach. “I thought the simple way to approach it was try to play my way into the top 50 in the world ... claw my way up the world rankings and make it that way.

“Obviously this,” he said,



Justin Rose, of England, poses for a photograph with the trophy after winning the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am golf tournament in Pebble Beach, Calif., Monday, Feb. 6, 2023.

Associated Press

tapping the crystal on a table next to him, “is a better way to make it by winning a tournament. So yeah, big relief from that point of view.”

And then he delivered a knockout punch early to as many as a dozen players who were within three shots of the lead at various points on the course.

After a good two-putt par on the 10th to resume his round, Rose holed a 25-foot birdie putt on the 11th, a 20-foot birdie putt on the 13th and then hit a wedge to the back shelf on the

par-5 14th to 8 feet for a third birdie.

From there, it was about playing it safe and soaking up the views.

For all the weather this week — and it was everything, all the time — the final three hours featured a stunning blue sky and big surf, waves crashing into the rocks and adding to a scenery that already is among the best in golf.

Rose finished three shots clear of Brendon Todd (65) and Brandon Wu (66).

“An incredible week from start to finish with so much

happening in my favor,” Rose said.

The 42-year-old from England had not won since Torrey Pines in 2019, when he was No. 1 in the world. He finished last year at No. 76, his lowest point since early in 2010.

“Amazing how long it’s been,” said Rose, whose victory moved him to No. 35.

The back nine, so difficult in the final hours Sunday evening, was hardly a threat Monday morning. The wind was light and coming from the opposite direction, if

anything at the players’ backs instead of into them. The weather played a big role all week, and no one benefited quite like Rose.

He was six shots out of the lead and going nowhere, facing the strongest wind of the week on the Shore course at Monterey Peninsula, when he hit 5-wood into the par-3 ninth to 3 feet. Before he could mark his ball, the wind blew it some 4 feet farther away.

That was enough for officials to halt play — the ninth and 15th greens at Monterey Peninsula were the problems — on all three courses in the rotation. Rose returned Sunday morning and made what then was a 7-foot birdie putt.

What would have been the odds of him winning if golf balls — his and others — were not blowing around at that point?

“It hurts them considerably. Yeah, that was a break,” Rose said. “I guess if you are out here long enough on tour, occasionally you catch a good break. So that was a good one.”

He played those final 10 holes in 6 under for a 65 to take the lead, and then a pivotal stretch Sunday evening gave him a cushion. Rose took it from there, a masterclass weekend of iron play and great putting. □



Utah Jazz forward Lauri Markkanen (23) and Charlotte Hornets guard Dennis Smith Jr. (8) battle for the ball during the second half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Jan. 23, 2023, in Salt Lake City.

Associated Press

By **JOHN COON**

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)

— When the NBA All-Star Game returns to Salt Lake City for the first time in three

decades, Utah Jazz owner Ryan Smith anticipates the event will help build Utah into a destination for other major sporting events.

“All the lights will be on us,

Jazz owner aims to showcase Utah with NBA All-Star Game

but I think it is one more compelling event in a series we need to have, we should have, and we’re going to have,” Smith said Monday at a news conference. Hosting the 72nd NBA All-Star Game on Feb. 19 is expected to drive significant economic impact for Salt Lake City over the five-day period. Hotel rooms throughout the city and Salt Lake County are sold out for the weekend.

Infrastructure expansion aided the Jazz in bringing back the coveted game, which they last hosted in 1993. Multiple hotels have

opened up near Vivint Arena within the last five years. There’s been downtown Salt Lake City development projects and an expansion of the Salt Lake City International Airport.

“I always look at the growth of a city by the amount of cranes in the air. We’ve got a lot of them in Salt Lake City and that’s a good thing,” Smith said.

Utah has hosted other major sporting events, including the 2002 Winter Olympics. With the state gearing up for another bid for the 2030 or 2034 Olympics, Smith sees the NBA All-Star

weekend as a perfect opportunity to showcase what Utah has to offer.

“This is a really important moment for our state to shine,” Smith said. “It’s been 30 years.”

All-Star weekend will include a men’s college basketball game between Grambling State and Southern — dubbed the NBA HBCU Classic on Feb. 18 at the Huntsman Center. A concert will feature Pitbull at the Salt Palace Convention Center that night. The Salt Palace will offer 14 basketball courts where fans can shoot and play. □